

**METHOD FOR ALTERING THE DELAY PROPERTIES OF A  
TRANSMISSION LINE USING COMPENSATION TABS**

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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

[035] An improved method and apparatus for altering the effective electrical length of trace on a circuit board. In the present invention small tabs of etch are routed perpendicular to the trace in the unused areas between adjacent traces. In an embodiment of the invention, a method of tuning the delay characteristics of a transmission line is implemented by inserting compensation tabs into the unused area between the segments of adjacent straight traces or a serpentine run. Utilizing the method and apparatus of the present invention, it is possible to achieve significantly greater electrical length for an electrical trace without introducing coupling problems or utilizing large amounts of space on a circuit board.